

Wycombe scoring riot—five in second half

Sports Mail Special Report

WYCOMBE travelled to Clapton in the Isthmian League this afternoon and in the second half, despite the absence of full back Beck, who was injured, their forwards ran riot, scoring five times, to win 6—2.

Clapton: Castle; Luker, Vichion; Amas, Hoare, Watson; Blakeney, Webber, Crane, Cousins, Holloway.

Wycombe Wanderers: Syrett; Beck, Pullin; Thomas, Lewis, Cooper; Worley, Gale, Bassett, Horseman, Hodges.

Referee: J. Wright (Woking).

Wycombe forced two quick corners but Castle cleared from both.

The rain became heavy and it signalled Clapton's first attack after ten minutes. From it they took the lead.

Webber passed to COUSINS who shot it first time into the net.

Bassett had a good chance to equalise but he headed weakly into the goalkeeper's hands.

DIFFICULT CONDITIONS

The bumpy surface, the greasy ball and the driving rain made conditions difficult, but even allowing for this, the play was of very poor nature, and after 20 minutes there was little for the few spectators to get excited about.

HODGES went through on his own in the 23rd minute and his powerful shot could only be helped into the net by goalkeeper Castle for the equaliser.

With only a minute of the first half left, Webber passed to Holloway, who shot high over the bar from close in.

Half-time: Clapton 1, Wycombe Wanderers 1.

Ten minutes after the interval Wycombe took the lead when Hodges pulled back a centre for HORSEMAN to push into the net.

MUCH HAPPIER

With Charlie Gale back to his best position of left half and the team abandoning their 4-2-4 system, the Wanderers looked much happier.

Hodges, who was beating Luker at will again, walked around the full back but his ground cross was missed by the forwards.

As Wycombe kept pressing Horseman ended a goalmouth scramble with a shot that hit the post.

Clapton had not given up hope and Crane and Cousins went close.

But when John Beck was taken off with a leg injury it signalled the start of a goal glut. LEN WORLEY crashed in a superb cross shot from the edge of the area and two minutes later HODGES added a fourth. Three minutes more and WEBBER shot home Clapton's second.

The goal riot continued and HORSEMAN added the fifth. Ten minutes from time THOMAS scored from a penalty shot.

RESULT:

CLAPTON	2
WYCOMBE WAND.	6

WELSH PEPS WYCOMBE

Clapton 2 Wycombe 6

A LABORIOUS, hesitant Wycombe were a goal down through a dashing movement by Clapton inside-left John Cousins within 10 minutes of the start.

It seemed the signal for a long-awaited Clapton revival from the foot of the Isthmian League table. They defended in depth, were more methodical in approach, and much quicker on to the ball.

Wanderers were stunned by this set-back and it took a powerful shot from left-winger Paul Hodges to even the score at half-time.

The interval must have contained a pep talk from Wycombe coach Don Welsh. Within two minutes a left-wing movement ended with Tony Horseman shooting Wycombe into the lead. And in a further three-minute attacking spell Len Worley thundered goal No. 3 and Hodges netted his second.

George Webber made it 4—2 for Clapton as John Beck was being led off the field injured.

But a rejuvenated Wycombe had found the blend of power and team-work that had evaded them in the opening half, and they promptly broke down Clapton's defence barrier with a fifth goal that spun in off Horseman's chest.

Clapton were decisively beaten when Dave Thomas hit the Wanderers' sixth from the penalty spot after a foul on Hodges.